

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 983
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2018**

CONSERVATION OF ANCIENT FOLK CULTURE

†983. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the work done by the Government for the conservation of ancient folk-culture in Maharashtra along with the details of schemes under which the said work is being done;
- (b) the names of places to which these folk cultures are related;
- (c) the details of funds sanctioned/ allocated for said folk cultures during the last three years; and
- (d) the further steps taken/being taken by the Government for proper and better conservation of the said folk cultures?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE AND
MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE**

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) For preservation, promotion & conservation of ancient folk-culture throughout the country including Maharashtra, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Allahabad, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur. Apart from regular cultural programmes/ activities, these ZCCs also implement the following schemes for conservation of ancient folk culture:

- i. Award to Young Talented Artistes
- ii. Guru Shishya Parampara Scheme
- iii. Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme
- iv. Research & Documentation Scheme
- v. Shilpgram Scheme
- vi. Octave and J&K Festivals
- vii. National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP)

(b) The main ancient folk cultures of Maharashtra are Lavani, Songi Mukhaute, Dhangari Gaza, Lezim, Karan Dhol, Machi/Koli dance, Bhawada, Banjara, Tarpa, Powada, Tamasha, Dandar, Kadi Gammat, Bharud, Dashawtar, Kathasar Gondhai & Dahaka. These dance forms are practiced all over Maharashtra and not restricted to any particular region of the State.

(c) Ministry of Culture provides annual grant-in-aid to all the seven ZCCs for promotion & preservation of folk culture in their member States.

(d) Apart from regular activities/ programmes, the ZCCs are also involved in identifying rare/ extinct art form for proper and better conservation of the said folk cultures. In addition, Ministry of Culture also organizes Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs through these ZCCs all over India wherein various art forms of the country are showcased.